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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 7 June 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Yesterday, Muslims worldwide, including Palestinian Muslims in Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem, marked the first day of the holy month of Ramadan. This year, Ramadan began one day after Palestinians, Muslim and Christian alike, tragically marked the passage of 49 years since the onset of the Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian and Arab lands on 5 June 1967. This sombre anniversary, which comes just weeks after the observance of the sixty-eighth year since the *Al-Nakba* of 1948, is yet another painful reminder of the injustice imposed on the Palestinian people and the continued inability of the international community to fulfil its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, international law and relevant resolutions to bring an end to this illegitimate occupation, to justly resolve the question of Palestine in all its aspects and to ensure the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and freedom in their own independent State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, rights which they have for too long been denied.

Clearly, the failure to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for its grave breaches of the law and ongoing brutal subjugation of the Palestinian people has protracted and exacerbated this conflict, with grave consequences to human lives and on the prospects for peace and stability. This is starkly reflected in the current situation on the ground in Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem, where Israel's illegal policies and practices continue to detrimentally affect every aspect of life for the Palestinian civilian population, which continues to endure, inter alia, death, injury, dispossession, displacement and countless other human rights abuses at the hands of a merciless occupying Power.

One manner in which Israel, the occupying Power, continues to exploit the international community's inaction is by continuing to systematically and deliberately colonize the Palestinian land it has belligerently, illegitimately occupied

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since June 1967, in grave breach of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, as well as international criminal law as articulated in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. On a daily basis, Israel confiscates Palestinian land, expands and constructs both settlements and its annexation, apartheid wall, demolishes Palestinian homes and other civilian structures, forcibly displaces and transfers Palestinian civilians and exploits the natural resources of the Palestinian land. Despite the widespread condemnations and calls for cessation, and the international consensus that the major obstacle and biggest threat to achieving the two-State solution for peace are settlements, Israel seems determined to continue with its expansionist agenda in direct contempt of the law and of the will and calls of the international community.

On 6 June, an announcement regarding illegal settlement construction came from the so-called "Israeli Jerusalem municipality", which declared its intent to build an illegal settlement comprising 15,000 settlement units in the Qalandiya area in the occupied West Bank, which is to be renamed "Atarot". In this regard, according to media outlets, the so-called "Israeli mayor of Jerusalem", who is also heading the illegal planning and construction committee, stated: "I intend to build a neighbourhood to meet the demands of the Haredi community. ... Such an intention has always been there. I am determined to make it come true."

Such preliminary announcements occur too often and are usually approved thereafter by the right-wing Israeli Government of Prime Minister Netanyahu, under which settlement-building and expansion have continued unabated. Here, it is important to recall the many Security Council resolutions directly addressing this crime, including resolutions 446 (1979), 452 (1979), 465 (1980) and 478 (1980). In the light of the current circumstances, we continue to call upon the Security Council to reaffirm this strong and well-established position on Israel's illegal settlement campaign. A firm message must be conveyed to Israel that its settlement activities and continued entrenchment of occupation and obstruction of a peaceful solution will not be tolerated and that it will be held accountable for such breaches. In the absence of such an unequivocal message, Israel will only continue its violations with absolute impunity, a fact starkly borne out by the evidence on the ground over the years.

At the same time, I must draw your attention to the continued killing and injury of Palestinian civilians by the occupying Power. Israeli occupying forces continue to commit extrajudicial executions against Palestinian civilians who they claim are carrying out a "stabbing attack". As with other recent killings of Palestinian civilians, independent and international investigations must be carried out to provide substantial proof that these so-called "stabbing attacks" against occupying forces, which are armed to the teeth with the most lethal weaponry, ever occurred in the first place. This narrative cannot be accepted without question as it is used over and over again to justify and pardon the excessive force and acts of extrajudicial executions against the Palestinian people held captive by this cruel and violent occupation.

The latest Palestinian to be accused of a so-called "stabbing attack" was a young woman, Ansar Husam Harsha (age 25) from Qaffin town near the West Bank city of Tulkarm. On 2 June 2016, Israeli occupying forces opened fire on Ansar at the "Innab" checkpoint. Ansar was more than 10 feet away from the occupying forces when they shot her. After she was shot, Red Crescent medics rushed to the

scene to provide her with emergency medical attention, but the occupying forces, as in so many other instances, prevented help from reaching her. Tragically, Ansar, a wife and a mother of two small children, Hadeel (age 2) and Yamen (age 4), died from her wounds.

In addition, on 6 June, a Palestinian young person, Jamal Mohammed Dweikat (age 20), died after succumbing to critical wounds sustained on Friday, 3 June. Jamal was shot with live fire in the head by occupying forces when clashes broke out in Nablus in the West Bank after a group of some 4,000 right-wing Israelis, including Knesset members from right-wing parties and illegal settlement leaders, raided the eastern side of the city escorted by occupying forces, reportedly arriving after midnight and leaving at dawn Saturday morning. In addition to the death of Jamal, at least 10 Palestinians were reportedly wounded in the clashes, in which occupying forces used live fire along with tear gas canisters and rubber-coated steel bullets against Palestinian civilians.

Furthermore, in this regard, I wish to draw attention to just some of the hundreds of other crimes perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the period since our last letter to you:

18 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained 19 Palestinians, including ex-minister Wasfi Qabaha (age 52), three children and two former detainees, and summoned five others during predawn raids across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- A Palestinian was shot and moderately injured by occupying forces near the Al-Shuja'iyya neighbourhood, east of Gaza City.
- Occupying forces demolished a Palestinian-owned home in the town of Shuafat, on the outskirts of East Jerusalem, in connection with plans to link two illegal Israeli settlements.
- Israeli settlers attacked and severely assaulted a Palestinian child, Rami Abu Aisheh (age 16), near his home in the Tel Al-Rumaideh neighborhood of Al Khalil. After they were finished beating him up, occupying forces detained him for attempting to defend himself from the settlers' attack.
- Occupying forces issued notices for removal of four water tanks used for gathering rain-water in the town of Beit Ummar in Al Khalil, under the pretext of being present in the so-called "Area C" of the West Bank.

19 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained six Palestinians, mostly during predawn raids across the West Bank.
- A Palestinian farmer was injured by Israeli ordnance when it exploded to the east of Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip.

21 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained two Palestinian children, Mohammed Samih Ulayan (age 10) and Mustafa Abu Al-Hawa (age 12), as they were walking in Al-Tur, before transporting them to a nearby illegal Israeli settlement. They

were interrogated by occupying forces for over six hours without a guardian present.

- Occupying forces fired on Palestinian farmers, shepherds and fishermen in the southern Gaza Strip.

22 May 2016

- Occupying forces detained at least five Palestinians from Ramallah and Al Khalil during predawn raids.
- Israeli settler bulldozers continued to level agricultural lands in Nablus and Salfit.
- Occupying naval forces fired on Palestinian fishermen, detained 10 fishermen and seized five boats in a separate incident in the northern Gaza Strip.

23 May 2016

- A Palestinian girl, Sawsan Ali Daoud Mansour (age 17) was shot and killed by Israeli occupying forces near the illegal Ras Biddu checkpoint, north of East Jerusalem.
- Occupying forces detained at least 25 Palestinians in overnight and day raids across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- Occupying forces demolished Al-Anbiya Mosque in the Al-Musrara neighborhood in East Jerusalem.

24 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces confiscated water pipes belonging to Palestinians in Kherbet Al-Hadidiya, a village in the northern Jordan Valley.
- Occupying forces detained 11 Palestinians, mostly minors, in predawn raids in Ramallah and Al Khalil.
- Occupying forces demolished the foundations of a privately owned Palestinian house in the Al-Thahra neighborhood in the town of Al-Issawiya in East Jerusalem, razed the land and knocked down its surrounding wall, in addition to several structures present on the land.

25 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces fired at Palestinian farmers and shepherds in the southern Gaza Strip.
- Occupying forces carried out multiple raids overnight across the occupied West Bank, detaining at least 22 Palestinians.
- Occupying forces extended the detention of Mohammed Ismail Hushiyeh (age 12) for a year.

26 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces issued demolition notices for three houses, an agricultural structure and a power line south of Nablus.

- Occupying forces detained 11 Palestinians in the West Bank, including two teenage girls from Al Khalil.

27 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained a Palestinian man, Mahmoud Jumaa Saleh Hamed (age 52), two of whose children were already in Israeli jails, in the town of Silwad.

28 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces forced Mohammed Younis Abu Tayeh from Ein Al-Lozeh, Silwan, East Jerusalem, to demolish an extension of his home (kitchen and bathroom), in order to avoid paying heavy fines, under the pretext of "construction without a permit".

29 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least 10 Palestinians in overnight raids in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

30 May 2016

- Israeli occupying vehicles and bulldozers raided private Palestinian lands east of Khan Younis and levelled lands approximately 50 metres into Gaza.
- Occupying forces detained at least 28 Palestinians in predawn military raids in the West Bank.

31 May 2016

- Occupying forces detained 14 Palestinians in multiple predawn raids across the West Bank.
- Israeli naval boats opened machine gunfire on Palestinian farmers offshore Gaza City.
- Illegal Israeli settlers resumed their provocative tours into the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East Jerusalem.
- A Palestinian fisherman was injured and detained along with four others by Israeli naval occupying forces that attacked them off the coast of Gaza.

1 June 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained 27 Palestinians across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- Occupying tanks and bulldozers went nearly 150 metres into Palestinian agricultural land to the east of Deir al-Balah, where they proceeded to raze the land, while randomly firing live ammunition.

2 June 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least 13 Palestinians during raids across the West Bank.

- Occupying forces shot and killed a Palestinian woman, Ansar Husam Harsha (age 25), at the illegal "Innab" checkpoint, east of Tulkarem.
- Israeli military bulldozers entered and razed lands in the Al-Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza.
- Occupying forces issued administrative detention orders against nine Palestinians and renewed orders against 30 Palestinian detainees.

4 June 2016

- Israeli occupying forces opened heavy machine gunfire on Palestinian farmers and shepherds to the east of Khan Younis in Gaza.

5 June 2016

- Israeli naval boats attacked the boats of Palestinian fishermen with heavy machine gunfire, causing extensive damage to at least one boat.
- Extremist Israeli settlers attempted to set fire to a Palestinian-owned store in the Old City neighbourhood in East Jerusalem.
- Occupying forces detained 18 Palestinians from across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

After 49 years of occupation, it is abhorrent and completely unfathomable that the Palestinian people continue to be occupied, oppressed and subjugated by this brutal occupying Power. We continue to call upon the international community, including the Security Council, to overcome its paralysis and not to remain silent any longer in the face of such egregious Israeli aggression and human rights violations against the defenceless Palestinian people. At the minimum, the Council must unequivocally demand that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease all of its violations against the Palestinian people and comply fully with its legal obligations under international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and the relevant United Nations resolutions. The Palestinian people have waited for decades for the international community to intervene on the side of justice in order to free them from this illegal foreign occupation and continue to appeal to the international community to act with conscience and without further delay.

In this regard, I wish to refer to the recent ministerial meeting convened on 3 June 2016 in Paris as a "Middle East peace initiative", under the auspices of the President of the French Republic. This meeting of international partners constituted an important step in reasserting the urgency of fully ending the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and justly resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions and with due regard for the importance of the implementation of the Arab Peace Initiative. The joint communiqué issued by the Ministers underscored, inter alia, their alarm that actions on the ground, particularly acts of violence and settlement activities, are imperilling the two-State solution and highlighted not only the roles of both parties but also the responsibilities of the international community to help to preserve the two-State solution and to tangibly advance the prospects for peace. On this solemn anniversary of the forty-ninth year of occupation, we appeal to the international community to act with urgency and the highest sense of responsibility and purpose to uphold their decades-long promises and commitments and their legal obligations

to bring this injustice and tragedy to an end. The Palestinian people can no longer be reasonably asked or expected to wait for their rights and freedom; justice and peace cannot be delayed. Let this be the year that they are finally realized.

This letter is in follow-up to our 586 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 16 May 2016 (A/ES-10/722-S/2016/450), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 16 June 2016 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Tensions continue to escalate in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, owing to the unrelenting, illegal and repressive practices being carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people whom it has been holding captive under its nearly five-decade-long occupation.

For the Palestinian people living under Israeli occupation, there is never a moment of peace or security. Besides the suffocating control of nearly every aspect of daily life, precluding any sense of normalcy, the occupying Power seems determined to do all that it can to make their already difficult living conditions as unbearable as possible. I draw attention, for example, to an incident that occurred yesterday, 15 June 2016, when the occupying Power deliberately cut crucial water supplies to large areas of the occupied West Bank, leaving tens of thousands of Palestinians without access to safe drinking water.

In this regard, the occupying Power's water company "Mekorot", the main supplier of water to Palestinian towns and cities, siphoned off water supplies from the town of Jenin, several Nablus villages and the city of Salfit and its surrounding villages. In some of those areas, Palestinian civilians had not received water for more than 40 days. This collective punishment measure is a dangerous development given the hardships Palestinians already face in terms of access to safe, clean water owing to Israel's diversion of water sources, discriminatory allocation of water and prohibition of Palestinian development of water infrastructure. This illegal, punitive action is even more provocative and insensitive in the light of the fact that it has been carried out during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

According to a recent report by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

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(A/71/86-E/2016/13), the average domestic consumption rate among Palestinians is approximately 40 litres per capita per day and drops to 20 litres per capita per day in several communities in so-called "Area C", compared with 183 litres per capita per day for Israeli settlers, all of whom have been illegally transferred to the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Of the Palestinian communities in so-called "Area C", 70 per cent are not connected to a water network (A/71/86-E/2016/13). Now, with this latest illegal measure by the occupying Power, Palestinian families, in the beginning months of summer, must live on only 2, 3 or to 10 litres per capita per day, according to Ayman Rabi, the Executive Director of the Palestinian Hydrology Group. The international community must call on Israel, the occupying Power, to end the use of water as a weapon against the occupied Palestinian people and to end its obstruction of the Palestinian people's right to clean water.

This violation comes on the heels of the occupying Power's revocation of more than 80,000 permits obtained by Palestinians to travel throughout the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, or to visit family elsewhere, including in Israel. Such a revocation of travel permits for Palestinians amounts to collective punishment, which is prohibited under international law. This assessment was articulated by the spokesperson of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, who expressed concern about the revoking of permits, "which may amount to prohibited collective punishment and will only increase the sense of injustice and frustration felt by Palestinians in this very tense time". The international community must condemn the occupying Power for all policies and practices intended to collectively punish the entire Palestinian civilian population and should not accept Israeli pretexts for such illegal measures. This can and will only stoke greater anger, resentment and tensions and must be immediately addressed.

On another front, Israel continues with its illegal settlement-building. We condemn the latest approval by the occupying Israeli authorities of a permit for a pro-settlement organization to construct a four-storey building in the area of Batan Al-Hawa in the Palestinian neighbourhood of Silwan in Occupied East Jerusalem. The Batan Al-Hawa neighbourhood is one of the most densely populated areas in the city. The Israeli human rights organization Peace Now stated back in October 2015 that the population of illegal settlers associated with the pro-settlement organization "Ateret Cohanim" had doubled in size in the Batan Al-Hawa neighbourhood over the past year. There are at least 300,000 Israeli settlers illegally residing in Occupied East Jerusalem, with at least 500 of them in Silwan, among a population of 45,000 Palestinian civilians. Moreover, the United Nations Environment Programme has reported that the settler population in the West Bank may have reached 750,000, and it should be noted that many of those settlers continue to harass, intimidate and commit acts of violence and terror against Palestinian civilians with total impunity. We condemn and reject the occupying Power's illegal policies attempting to change the facts on the ground, which undermine the viability of the ever-diminishing two-State solution.

In addition to carrying out ongoing settlement activities, Israel continues to commit grave violations against the Palestinian people, violating nearly every human right on a daily basis. Palestinian civilians, among them children, continue to be killed or seriously injured as the occupying forces continue to use excessive, indiscriminate force against our defenceless people. While the Palestinian leadership condemns the killing of civilians, no matter who they may be, the same cannot be said about the Israeli Government, whose policies and directives are the

primary source of the sheer disregard for Palestinian life exhibited by the Israeli occupying forces. Without protection for the Palestinian people, more and more Palestinians will be killed as they continue to suffer under this occupation, awaiting the realization of their freedom and rights.

While it is impossible to record every single crime perpetrated daily by the Israeli occupying forces and terrorist settlers against the Palestinian people, listed below are just some of the many crimes committed by Israel in the recent period, including, inter alia, home demolitions, mass arrests and detentions, along with its ongoing illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip, all clearly intended to make the lives of Palestinian civilians as miserable as possible and severely affecting every man, woman and child:

8 June 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained three Palestinian fishermen while they were sailing offshore Gaza.
- Israeli settlers razed Palestinian-owned land in the village of Al-Khader, south of Bethlehem.
- Occupying forces detained 16 Palestinians, including children, in mostly overnight raids in the West Bank.
- Occupying forces issued/renewed administrative detention orders for 34 Palestinian detainees. Eleven of the detainees received administrative detention orders for the first time, while the remaining 23 received renewed orders.

9 June 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least 12 Palestinians in raids across the West Bank.
- Extremist Israeli settlers spray-painted racist graffiti on walls in the Arab village of Abu Ghoush, north-west of East Jerusalem.

10 June 2016

- Hassan Khalid Al-Qadhi (age 26), a mentally disabled youth, was shot and injured by occupying forces at the Awarta illegal checkpoint, east of Nablus.
- Occupying forces detained at least 12 Palestinians during a large-scale military raid across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- An Israeli settler ran over a flock of sheep belonging to a Palestinian shepherd near the village of Al-Zubeidat in Jericho, killing 25 of the sheep.

11 June 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained 11 Palestinians from the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- Occupying forces, accompanied by armoured bulldozers, raided the village of Beit Amra, in southern Al-Khalil, and demolished the two-storey family home of Murad Id'ais without prior notice and forcibly prevented the family from removing their possessions.

12 June 2016

- Israeli naval boats opened fire on Palestinian fishermen offshore the city of Rafah in southern Gaza Strip.

13 June 2016

- Occupying forces detained 16 Palestinians, including a child, in the West Bank.
- More than 50 olive trees and 100 dunums of agricultural land located behind the Wall in Qalqilya were set on fire by Israeli occupying forces.

14 June 2016

- Palestinian prisoner Bilal Kayid began a hunger strike to protest being placed under administrative detention for six months following the completion of his 14-year sentence in an Israeli prison.
- Occupying forces detained 17 Palestinians in raids across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

15 June 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained 11 Palestinians, mostly during pre-dawn raids into the West Bank.
- A Palestinian youth, Saleh Abu Al-Anad (age 21), sustained serious wounds when he was run over by an Israeli occupying vehicle during a pre-dawn military raid into the Balata refugee camp, east of Nablus.
- Israeli navy forces detained 10 Palestinian fishermen while they were sailing offshore Gaza.

The Palestinian leadership condemns all of Israel's illegal, inhumane and destructive actions and calls on the international community, including the Security Council, to demand an end to all such Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem. This illegal and belligerent Israeli occupation must end in all its manifestations. There is no political, legal, security or moral justification whatsoever for the continued denial of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and freedom. Moreover, the Security Council cannot continue to be absolved of its responsibilities and must act urgently to avert further destabilization of the situation. Every day in which the international community does not act to confront this crisis is another day in which innocent lives are disfigured and another day in which hopes for a peaceful solution to this conflict further evaporate.

This letter is in follow-up to our 587 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 7 June 2016 (A/ES-10/723-S/2016/516), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being

committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 22 June 2016 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Since our previous letter to you, dated 16 June 2016, the Palestinian people, including children, have continued to be killed, injured and terrorized as a result of Israel's ongoing violations of international law, humanitarian law and human rights law throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Unprotected, despite the very clear provisions of international law according protection to civilians under foreign occupation, the Palestinian people continue to endure countless human rights violations and war crimes at the hands of the Israeli occupying forces. Tensions have consequently remained high, and anger, fear and frustration among our people are rising as the faith that peace can ever be achieved continues to fade with each passing day.

Each letter that we send to you not only contains a list of just some of the crimes committed by the occupying Power against the Palestinian people and their land but also tragically contains names and stories of innocent lives that were lost at the hands of the occupation. And with each name and story, a new cycle of hate and anger fester among an occupied people who have been left defenceless against a monstrous occupying Power that unleashes its lethal weaponry against them on a daily basis. No doubt Israel, the occupying Power, has been bolstered by the culture of impunity and lawlessness that continues to prevail owing to the failure of the international community to hold Israel accountable for any of its violations and crimes against the Palestinian people and throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Such impunity has not only absolved Israel from its legal obligations as an occupying Power but has emboldened its continued perpetration of crimes without fear of punishment.

A prime example of the occupying Power's sheer brutality took place yesterday, 21 June 2016, when the Palestinian people were faced yet again with immense grief and sorrow owing to the loss of yet another child at the hands of the

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occupation. The latest young boy to fall victim to the viciousness of the Israeli occupying forces was Mahmoud Ra'fat Badran (age 15), from the village of Beit Ur al-Tahta in the occupied West Bank. Mahmoud, along with his brothers Amir (age 16) and Hadi (age 17), as well as their friends Daoud Abu Hassan (age 16) and Majd Badran (age 16), were coming back from a visit to the only nearby swimming pool. Their vehicle was en route home on a road close to an Israeli-only bypass road, which is also referred to as "road 443" or the "apartheid road". Suddenly, the car came under heavy gunfire by nearby Israeli occupying forces, killing Mahmoud and seriously injuring the other young boys in the car. The Palestine Red Crescent Society said that Israeli occupying forces prevented paramedics from attending to the injured Palestinian boys for over 90 minutes. Moreover, three of the young boys who were finally treated in a hospital had bullet wounds to the head and chest.

It should be noted that "road 443" is an Israeli-only road that is 15 miles long, with more than half of the road cutting through the occupied West Bank. In addition to violating Palestinians' freedom of movement and access, with devastating repercussions on health, education and livelihoods, such apartheid roads have consolidated and strengthened the presence of illegal Israeli settlements across the occupied West Bank, ensuring superior access for illegal settlers at the expense of the indigenous Palestinian civilian population.

With regard to the tragic killing of Mahmoud, a military spokeswoman of the occupying Power stated that the young boys were "mistakenly hit" while Israeli occupying forces were responding to alleged reports that Palestinians were "throwing rocks and firebombs" at illegal settlers on the above-mentioned Israeli-only road. The international community must not accept that the occupying Power, which, according to the Fourth Geneva Convention, has the obligation to protect the occupied people, continues to "mistakenly hit" Palestinian civilians, including children. Even if they were responding to alleged stone throwing, how can that ever justify riddling a car with bullets and shooting people in the head and chest? How can the occupying Power, which also happens to be a full member of the United Nations, be allowed to conduct itself in such a criminal manner, killing, injuring and destroying the lives of so many Palestinians, day in and day out? And how can the international community continue to allow the occupying Power to commit such crimes with complete impunity? The Palestinian leadership calls for an international investigation into this latest crime in order to hold the perpetrators accountable for their crimes and for destroying the lives of yet another Palestinian family. Enough is enough.

Sadly, for the family of Mahmoud, this is not the first tragedy they have faced because of Israel's 50-year occupation. In fact, Mahmoud's father, a diplomat with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine, was a prisoner of the occupation and was held in an Israeli prison for 16 years. In addition to that, while he was in prison, his family home was demolished by Israeli occupying forces. And now, the family is mourning the cold-blooded murder of their eldest son, Mahmoud, whose body still remains with the occupying Power and has not been returned to his family for a proper burial. At the same time, Mahmoud's family is at the hospital bedside of their other two sons, praying for their survival as they continue to fight for their lives as a result of bullet wounds to the head and chest. This is just one example of how lives under occupation are shattered by the policies of occupation.

While it is impossible to record every single crime perpetrated daily by the Israeli occupying forces and terrorist settlers against the Palestinian people, listed below are just some of the many crimes committed by Israel in the recent period, including home demolitions, mass arrests and detentions, which, along with its ongoing illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip, are all clearly intended to make the lives of Palestinian civilians as miserable as possible, and which severely affect every man, woman and child.

15 June 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained 11 Palestinians, mostly during predawn raids into the West Bank.
- A Palestinian youth, Saleh Abu al-'Anad (age 21), sustained serious wounds when he was run over by an Israeli occupying vehicle during a predawn raid into Balata refugee camp, east of the city of Nablus.
- Israeli navy forces detained 10 Palestinian fishermen while they were sailing offshore of Gaza.

16 June 2016

- Israeli occupying forces stole five Palestinian-owned cars during a predawn campaign in the village of Bal'in, west of Ramallah.
- Israeli occupying forces injured two Palestinian minors and detained eight Palestinians in a predawn raid across the West Bank.

18 June 2016

- Israeli occupying forces in a jeep chased four Palestinians while they were walking down a street near the town of Azoun in Qalqilia, running over a youth, Hamza 'Oweisat, and detaining the rest.

19 June 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained 14 Palestinians, including two women, during predawn raids across the West Bank.
- Israeli occupying forces stationed to the east of Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, opened heavy machine-gun fire on farmers, preventing them from reaching their land.
- A young Palestinian man, Arif Jaradat (age 21), who had Down syndrome, succumbed to his wounds sustained on 4 May in Sair, in Al-Khalil.

20 June 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained 16 Palestinians from across the West Bank, including two journalists, and shot and injured two brothers with rubber-coated bullets.

21 June 2016

- Mahmoud Ra'fat Badran (age 15), from the village of Beit Ur al-Tahta in the occupied West Bank, was killed by Israeli occupying forces. His brothers,

Amir (age 16) and Hadi (age 17), as well as their friends Daoud Abu Hassan (age 16) and Majd Badran (age 16), who were in the car with Mahmoud, also sustained serious injuries by Israeli gunfire and remain in serious condition.

It is without a doubt that the above-mentioned violations are in grave breach of international humanitarian law, as well as international criminal law as articulated in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. For these war crimes, we will continue to seek accountability and justice through all legal and peaceful means. At the same time, we call again upon the international community, particularly the Security Council, to act now to protect the Palestinian people and diffuse this dangerous situation, which clearly constitutes a threat to international peace and security. As we have stated in the past, the Palestinian people cannot remain the exception to the responsibility to protect civilians from atrocities and flagrant breaches of the law, as they are not just statistics but human beings whose lives are being constantly shattered. Yesterday's tragic event can only provide more evidence of the occupying Power's total disregard for the lives and rights of the Palestinian people, as well as of its total contempt for international law. The time is now for the international community to finally bring an end to Israel's impunity and to its 50-year occupation in order to bring overdue justice to the Palestinian people.

This letter is in follow-up to our 588 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 16 June 2016 (A/ES-10/724-S/2016/544) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations